



June 26, 2023

Chief Superintendent Syd Lecky  
Commanding Officer, RCMP "G" Division  
BAG SERVICE 5000  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2R3

**VIA EMAIL**

Dear Chief Superintendent Lecky:

**Policing Priorities for 2023/2024**

I am pleased to present the 2023/2024 policing priorities pursuant to Article 6 of the Territorial Police Services Agreement. Policing priorities are developed annually through a review of Community policing reports, feedback received from engagement with Indigenous governments, and community leaders, partners and service providers. Priorities are aligned with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Policing priorities also reflect the need for the RCMP to contribute to safer and healthier communities through the delivery of culturally competent policing services. A focus on building relationships and partnerships with the Indigenous communities served by police is integral to this. The 2023/2024 policing priorities include the addition of performance measures to support the RCMP in monitoring and reporting on their work towards these priorities. I look forward to the reporting of these measures and the ability for them to be conveyed to the public.

**Priority #1: Enhance policing responses to target and disrupt the availability of illicit drugs and alcohol.**

Policing priorities continue to focus on disrupting the trafficking of illegal drugs and alcohol into NWT communities. Organized crime networks continue to take advantage of vulnerable residents and we collectively are concerned by the notable presence of firearm-related incidents connected to organized crime and drug trafficking networks.

Indigenous youth are also often the target of organized crime, drug trafficking and illegal alcohol activities in the NWT. Systemic issues related to poverty, substance use, low educational attainment, the legacy of colonialism and the residential schooling system in the

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NWT remain some of the root issues related to why crime occurs. Work across sectors is required to target the effects of illicit drugs and alcohol. Activities under this priority seeks to increase the work the RCMP do with communities, Indigenous governments, non-government organizations, and the GNWT to support prevention efforts and address crime before it happens.

**Priority #2: Build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities to understand and establish community driven policing needs and services.**

In Canada there is a long history documenting the deficiencies and challenges with policing Indigenous communities. As Senator Murray Sinclair, former Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner, stated, *"In order for that [Reconciliation] to happen, there has to be awareness of the past, an acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour"*. This sentiment is especially relevant in the NWT, a jurisdiction with the second highest proportion of Indigenous peoples in its population and the highest proportion of residential school survivors in Canada.

This priority reflects the understanding that the RCMP will work with communities to learn more about cultural practices and traditions, in order to provide policing that is reflective of reconciliation efforts. Collaborative policing priority setting meetings between the RCMP and Community Justice Committees and Indigenous organizations and governments will support this priority.

These community-based policing discussions provide the RCMP with the community and cultural input to best support communities and residents through the delivery of culturally safe and responsive policing services. Ensuring that community and RCMP discussions are taking place helps to support strong relationships between the RCMP and Indigenous communities and ensures that Indigenous communities have the opportunity to share their values around policing services, which are then reflected in the policing delivered to the community. At the same time, continued dialogue ensures that policing activities reflect the spirit of reconciliation that engages the perspectives of Indigenous peoples in policing service delivery.

**Priority #3: Provide policing services that are responsive to the needs of Indigenous women, girls, families, and children experiencing family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence in the NWT.**

Rates of family violence in the NWT are very high. As we also know, family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence is often underreported. Women are twice as likely to experience family violence in comparison to men and represent 79% of the survivors of intimate partner violence in the NWT. Limited access to appropriate resources to help survivors and perpetrators are part of what contributes to the cycle of violence across the territory.

Policing priorities in 2023/2024 continue to reflect the importance of policing services that work in a collaborative way to ensure Indigenous women, girls, families, and children are supported to access programs and services. This includes providing referrals to Victim Services and to the Emergency Protections Order and free Independent Legal Advice and Representation Programs. Victims Services Coordinators are a resource for the RCMP and their early engagement is encouraged, where appropriate, in responding to situations involving family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence.

**Priority #4: Improve community knowledge and understanding about local policing services.**

This priority focuses on increasing the information and awareness about policing in the NWT, including the sharing of policing data and information publicly to encourage transparency, communicate emerging trends, and to highlight efforts taken to reduce crime, and support community safety. It is anticipated that this information may be shared through the new ministerial policing performance measures, "G" Division media releases, and by local RCMP detachments in communities.

A summary of the activities and associated performance measures under each priority is included **(Appendix A)** and will help to ensure that the policing priorities for 2023/2024 are being met.

I want to thank you and all the members within "G" Division for your dedication and commitment to public safety. As this is my last priority setting letter as Minister in the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, I want to thank you for your collaboration and leadership and wish you well as you lead this important work for the 2023/2024 year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.J. Simpson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R.J. Simpson  
Minister, Justice

Attachment

c. Charlene Doolittle  
Deputy Minister, Justice

Mandi Bolstad  
Assistant Deputy Minister - Solicitor General, Justice

**Appendix A:**  
**2023/2024 Northwest Territories Policing Priority Activities and Performance Measures**

<b>Priority #1: Enhance policing responses to target and disrupt the availability of illicit drugs and alcohol.</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Performance measures</b>
a) Law enforcement efforts to target and disrupt organized crime, illicit drugs and alcohol.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of drug and organized crime investigations undertaken.</li> <li>• Number of people charged with drug trafficking.</li> <li>• Number of people charged with bootlegging.</li> <li>• Number of calls related to bootlegging and drug trafficking by community.</li> </ul>
b) Work collaboratively to support social programs with partners to recognize and work with at-risk people, including youth, who may be vulnerable to the influence of the drug trade and other serious crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on activities undertaken with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community Justice Committees</li> <li>○ Victim Services programs</li> <li>○ Community Safety Officer</li> <li>○ Shelters and other housing related social programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	
NWT residents have up to date information and confidence that the RCMP are responding to drug and alcohol occurrences.	
<b>Priority #2: Build and strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities to understand and establish community driven policing needs and services.</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Performance measures</b>
a) RCMP members receive cultural awareness and safety training and apply cultural awareness and cultural safety to their service delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and type of “G” division members trained in cultural safety, awareness cultural competency training for RCMP employees and trauma informed practices.</li> <li>• Frequency of use of Restorative Justice Practices by age and offense: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of pre-charge diversion referrals</li> <li>○ Number of Restorative Justice activities and training completed by members</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
b) RCMP attend and participate in regular meetings to discuss, set and report on policing services, priorities, and orientation of new police officers with key stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of policing priority setting meetings with stakeholders, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community Justice Committees</li> <li>○ Municipal and Indigenous</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>governments and organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of communities with letters of collaboration and policing priorities in place</li> </ul>
c) Community safety and critical incidence response discussions and information sessions with communities without detachments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of information sharing meetings in communities without detachments.</li> <li>• Number of pro-active patrols and meetings with leadership in communities without detachments.</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated outcomes</b>	
<p>Community leaders and members are sharing community-based and cultural knowledge and participate in community-based crime prevention and community safety activities with RCMP. RCMP visibility is increased.</p> <p>RCMP are learning about and respect cultures of NWT Indigenous communities.</p>	
<b>Priority #3: Provide policing services that are responsive to the needs of Indigenous women, girls, families, and children experiencing family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence in the NWT.</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Performance measures</b>
a) RCMP increase knowledge, partnerships and referrals to safety programming and services for families, women, girls, and children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Victim Services Workers accompanying RCMP to calls to support victims.</li> <li>• Number of RCMP referrals to safety programming, including Victims Services, Shelters, Emergency Protection Order, and Independent Legal Advice and Representation Programs.</li> <li>• RCMP provides bi-annual reporting on policing data for NWT family, intimate partner, and sexualized violence.</li> </ul>
b) RCMP conduct Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Investigative Review Committees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of reviews completed by the Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Investigative Review Committees.</li> <li>• Number of RCMP members who participated and are trained in courses to increase knowledge and awareness about family, intimate partner and sexualized violence such as: Common Sexual Assault Investigational Gaps; Consent and Sexual Assault Myths; Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Scoring; Trauma Informed Approach Course.</li> </ul>

Anticipated outcomes	
<p>RCMP are providing policing services that are responsive, culturally safe, and sensitive to the needs of Indigenous women, girls, families, and children.</p> <p>Stakeholders and residents express confidence in the RCMP in dealing with the needs of Indigenous women, girls, families, and children experiencing family, intimate partner and sexualized violence in the NWT.</p>	
Priority #4: Improve community knowledge and understanding about local policing services.	
Activities	Performance measures
a) Increase knowledge about RCMP programs and services through online tools, in person activities, social media, radio and other forms of communication mechanisms, and ensure RCMP members are visible and approachable to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of online, in person, social media, radio, and other communication on RCMP programs and services about policing in the NWT.</li> <li>• Number of community events and activities where RCMP participate and/or share information.</li> </ul>
b) RCMP work with the Department of Justice to ensure there is up to date and publicly available policing services information to ensure the public are aware of emerging trends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of public reporting of RCMP policing information.</li> </ul>
c) Ensure RCMP members are visible and approachable to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of community patrols, community meetings, events activities.</li> </ul>
Anticipated outcomes	
<p>NWT residents have an increased awareness of the RCMP's role and their programs and services. RCMP presence is visible to community members.</p>	